

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: **December 20, 2006/Marathon**

Division: BOCC-District 5

Bulk Item: Yes No x

Department: **DISTRICT FIVE**

Staff Contact Person/Phone: **Donna Hanson**
305-852-7175

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Discussion and support for a resolution stating Monroe County's objection to the National Marine Fisheries (NOAA) proposed Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

ITEM BACKGROUND: Through the regional offices of the Gulf Fisheries Management Council, a regulation is soon to be implemented requiring Gulf-reef license holders to purchase, install, and maintain a “locator” device known collectively as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Aside from the expense of this device and loss of income when it malfunctions, it seems counter productive for Monroe County to be actively seeking to preserve “working waterfront” while not actively seeking to protect the very people who help our working waterfronts working.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY:_____

SOURCE OF FUNDS:_____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ___ No ___ **AMOUNT PER MONTH**___ **Year** ___

APPROVED BY: County Atty _____ OMB/Purchasing _____ Risk Management _____

DOCUMENTATION: Included _____ Not Required x

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM #

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DOCUMENTATION: Included _____ Not Required x

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RESOLUTION NO. _____-2006

**A RESOLUTION BY THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE MONROE
COUNTY COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO
HAVE THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES VMS TRACKING
SYSTEM REQUIREMENT RESCINDED.**

WHEREAS, commercial fishing is a traditional and vital part of the Florida Keys economy; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the County's fishermen serve the Keys communities in many capacities; and

WHEREAS, commercial fishermen raise families, pay taxes and obey the laws like other citizens; and

WHEREAS, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, an agency within the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, has promulgated a rule requiring placement of global positioning systems (vessel monitoring system, VMS) on all commercial fishing vessels in order to track their movements; and

WHEREAS, vessel monitoring systems profile commercial fishermen as a class of citizens who cannot be trusted to obey the laws; and

WHEREAS, tracking the movements of law abiding citizens is offensive to human dignity and the principles of a free society and the constitution of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners supports the efforts of commercial fishermen to have the rule requiring VMS rescinded.

Section 2: That the Monroe County Commission calls upon our State and Federal elected officials to use their good offices to support our Monroe County fishermen by calling for the ban on the use of such odious devices that involuntarily track the movements of law abiding citizens.

Section 3: The Clerk is directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the addressees on the attached list entitled Exhibit A- List of Addresses, incorporated herein by reference.

Section 4: This Resolution shall become effective on the date written below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 20th day of December, A.D., 2006.

Mayor Mario DiGennaro	_____
Mayor Pro Tem Dixie M. Spehar	_____
Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy	_____
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy	_____
Commissioner George Neugent	_____

(SEAL)
Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By _____
Deputy Clerk

By _____
Mayor/Chairman

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

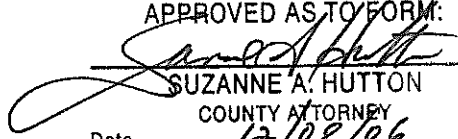

SUZANNE A. HUTTON
COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date 12/08/06

EXHIBIT A – LIST OF ADDRESSES

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Roy O. Williams
Assistant Director
FFWCC Division of Marine Fisheries
Farris Bryant Building
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

R. Vernon Minton
Director, Alabama Dept. of
Conservation and Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division
P.O. Drawer 458
Gulf Shores, AL 36535

Corky Perret
Vice Chair
Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Karen Foote
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries Room 356
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Robin Reichers
Chair
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

Dr. William T. Hogarth
Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silversprings, Maryland 20910

Senator Mel Martinez
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

George J Geiger
Chairman, South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
566 Ponoka Street
Sebastian, FL 32958

Charles Duane Harris
Vice-Chairman, South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
105 Demere Retreat Lane
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Anthony L Iarocci
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
236 Guava Avenue
Grassy Key, FL 33050

Mark Robson
FFWCC
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Governor Jeb Bush
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Office of Attorney General Charlie Crist
State of Florida
The Capitol PL-01
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
2160 Rayburn H.O.B
Washington, DC 20515-0918

Representative Ron Saunders
405 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Gulf Fishermen's Association
1336 Bayview Drive
Clearwater, FL 33756

Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's
Association
P.O. Box 501404
Marathon, FL 33050

Mike Mastry, II, Esq.
2101 - 5th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713